

Application No. 09/575,552

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Pocket No. 22-0099

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 11-21 were submitted for reconsideration and re-examination, all of these claims having previously been deemed to be allowed or allowable. In the aforementioned Office action, claims 13, 14, 16-19 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable over newly cited art. Applicant notes with appreciation the confirmation of allowance of claims 4, 11 and 12 and the indication of allowability of claims 15 and 20, which were rejected only for their dependence upon rejected claims.

By this amendment, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form and should, therefore, be allowed without further substantive examination. Further, independent claim 13 has been rewritten to include the essence of allowable claim 20. The only differences between original claim 20 and amended claim 13 are: (1) The term "uplink channel" has been shortened to "uplink," consistent with the antecedent basis established for "uplink" in the first paragraph of claim 13. (2) The term "a unique queue" has been changed to "selected queues" for clarification. The term "unique" was both misleading and ambiguous; misleading because it implied that one particular queue had unique properties; ambiguous because it was unclear whether each uplink was associated with the same "unique" queue or whether uplinks were associated with appropriate, but possibly different, queues. The operation of the switch, as clearly explained in the specification, is that data packets from each uplink are switched to selected queues based on priority class or quality of service. Describing a queue as "unique" did not help define the association between uplinks and queues. Accordingly, these changes to claim 20, as now incorporated into claim 13, are believed to be

Application No. 09/575,552

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Docket No. 22-0099

necessary for purposes of clarification. Claim 13 as amended is believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claim 20 was found to be allowable.

Rejected claims 14, 16-19 and 21 still depend from claim 13 and are, therefore, now believed to be allowable with the amended independent claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 11-19 and 21 are allowable over the cited art. Therefore, formal notification of allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 9, 2005

/Noel F. Heal/

Noel F. Heal

Registration No. 26,074

Northrop Grumman Space Technology
Intellectual Asset Management
One Space Park, E1-2041
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Telephone: (310) 812-4910
FAX: (310) 812-2687